

Governor Celeste presents checks

By **MELISSA WILTHEW**
Jambar Editor

Ohio Governor Richard F. Celeste made a stop on the second floor of Meshel Hall Wednesday afternoon to present YSU with a \$283,000 check establishing the Ohio Department of Development's Edison Office of Entrepreneurship (EOE).

Celeste also presented a second check to the Columbiana Small Business Incubator.

EOE is aimed at stimulating regional economic development through private entrepreneurs to establish new businesses or expand existing ones in emerging fields of technology. YSU is EOE's main

sponsor along with the Youngstown Chamber of Commerce.

While the incubator will be headquartered at YSU, clients will actually be served at three locations in the area. One of those three locations is the Col-

umbiana County Small Business Incubator.

Celeste said that small business is "a vital need for today" and a building block for the future of this region.

He also stressed the change in our economy due to trends.

Relying on the history of a once-reknowned Steel Valley, Celeste told of the first blast furnace that was established in 1803. We must draw from that innovation that made Youngstown a number one steel producer, Celeste urged.

Celeste said that same innovation must be turned to small business which one day may become big business. "In the future, two out of three jobs will be created by small business," he said.

Citing recent statistics, Celeste said that small business failures were up nationally but dropped in Ohio by five percent. By procuring innovation Celeste said he hopes to turn Ohio around.

"There is a climate for growth in one of the fastest growing sections of Ohio," Celeste said.

After his Meshel Hall presentation, Celeste visited the Oak Street bridge and also the E.W. Bliss company in Columbiana County to present a check of \$810,000 for a low-interest loan.